

## Legislative Charges

### EARLY LEARNING

- Develop an early learning plan to improve the organization of early learning programs and services and to improve accessibility and quality of early learning programs and services.
- Provide recommendations to the governor and legislature concerning:
  - Identification of current populations being served and potential populations to be served by early learning programs and services;
  - The state's role in supporting quality early learning programs and services;
  - Appropriate levels and sources of stable and sustainable funding to meet statewide and local needs for early learning programs and services, including public-private partnerships;
  - Changes in existing early learning programs and services, including their administration, to improve their efficiency, effectiveness and quality;
  - Changes in programs and service to ensure content is aligned with what children need to know and be able to do upon entering school;
  - How to maximize available early learning resources to ensure children are receiving continuity of care; and
  - Providing for smooth transitions from early learning programs and services to K-12 programs.
- Develop a voluntary, quality-based graduated rating system to provide information to parents about program quality and to provide resources and incentives to improve quality.
- Develop a tiered-reimbursement system for state-subsidized child care to improve quality of care for children in state-funded care; and
- Provide recommendations to the governor and legislature concerning regulation of child care, including care that is exempt from regulation and unlicensed care that is subject to regulation.

### K-12 EDUCATION

#### General Finance and Policy Background

- Review the constitutional and legal requirements of the K-12 finance system and how those requirements are affected by education reform efforts to provide all students with the opportunity to achieve the state standards.

## Financial Analysis

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of the current K-12 funding system and consider how local school districts use the funding provided to meet state requirements and student learning goals.
- Review K-12 finance systems in at least five other states.
- Identify efficiencies in district spending practices.
- Consider local and regional funding challenges faced by individual school districts throughout the state.
- Identify potential changes to the current salary system that would be more closely related to professional development and enhancement of student performance.
- Identify potential changes to the current K-12 finance system including recommendations on the amount of funding and how that funding would be distributed and consideration of how these changes would impact student achievement.

## Policy Considerations

- Assure program accountability.
- Improve effectiveness in state-level governance.
- Provide programs that assist students in meeting standards.
- Help students stay in school.
- Improve the effectiveness of instruction for students who are learning English as a second language.
- Consider impacts of the certification requirements for teachers.
- Identify appropriate preparation requirements for paraeducators.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Fiscal issues

- Examine options for creating a new funding system
- Examine methods of determining the cost of instruction for various programs
- Identify appropriate shares of the cost of instruction for tuition, state subsidies, and financial aid
- Identify costs associated with increasing access to BA degrees
- Identify options for coordinating higher education capital and operating budgets
- Review higher education governance as it relates to fiscal policies

## Enrollment issues

- Identify the number and type of enrollments needed to meet demographic and work force training needs
- Identify enrollment distribution patterns throughout the higher education system needed to meet demographic and workforce training needs
- Recommend strategies for increasing BA degree opportunities
- Identify options for using enrollment capacity at independent colleges and universities

## Transition issues

- Examine ways to provide smooth transitions from high school to college. For instance, by ensuring adequate preparation for college course work and increasing dual credit options for high school students
- Create a common transfer and articulation plan for community colleges and baccalaureate institutions

## Research issues

- Identify incentives to optimize research conducted by public higher education institutions
- Identify research that, if conducted by Washington public higher education institutions, will stimulate the economy and address social issues